ON THE GRAND

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On the Grand is a quarterly publication distributed by the **Grand River Conservation Authority** to member municipalities and watershed residents. It contains short news items about Conservation Authority programs and projects in the Grand River valley.

WE MADE IT!
The Grand is a Canadian Heritage River

(Photo: Brian Reid)

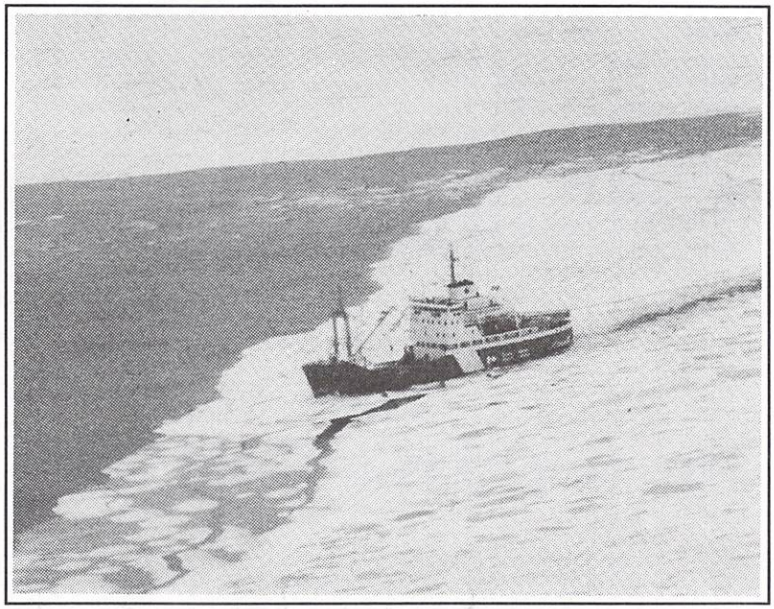
GRCA Chairman Archie MacRobbie (right) met with Minister of Culture, Tourism and Recreation Anne Swarbrick and Cambridge MPP Mike Farnan at The Cambridge Mill restaurant in November during Ms. Swarbrick's tour of the Cambridge area. Mr. MacRobbie presented the Minister with a copy of *Grand River Reflections* and requested further provincial support for the GRCA's efforts to achieve designation of the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River. Mr. Farnan believed in the importance of designating the Grand and often spoke in favour of our river receiving this honour.

On January 18 the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board recommended designation of the Grand to the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and to the Minister Responsible for Canadian Heritage.

On February 23 the Honourable Howard Hampton endorsed *"The Grand Strategy"* which was the designation document co-ordinated by the Conservation Authority. A plaque unveiling and formal celebration of Canada's newest Heritage River is planned for early July.

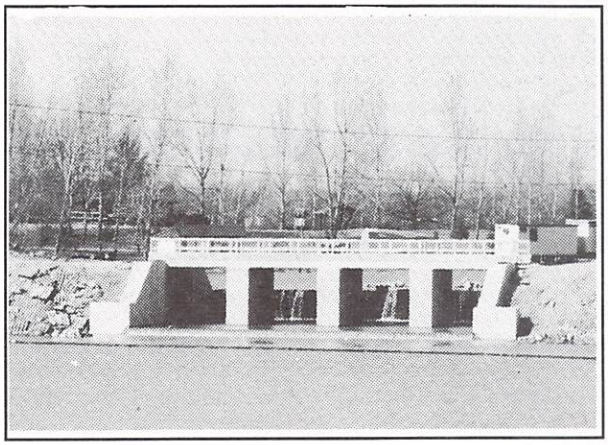
Breaking the Ice

The Conservation Authority held its annual Flood Co-ordinators Meeting on February 16. The meeting provides a yearly opportunity for the GRCA to review the responsibilities of Flood Co-ordinators across the watershed. Manager of Engineering Ron Moulton surveyed the results of this year's test of the Flood Warning System.



The guest speaker was Emmett Hahn, Chief of the U.S. Army Corps Emergency Operations Centre in St. Louis, Missouri. The appearance of Mr. Hahn, who spoke about the great flood of '93 in the Mississippi River valley, may have explained the record attendance at the meeting.

At the time of the meeting the risk of flooding from ice jams was high due to thicker than average ice cover on the Grand. To help ensure that the mouth of the Grand was open during the spring melt and runoff period, the Canadian Coast Guard ship the *Griffon* sailed to Port Maitland on March 2 after encountering heavy ice on Lake Erie. The *Griffon* entered the Grand and broke ice upriver for a little more than a kilometre.



More News from Dunnville

The Conservation Authority is currently restoring the Dunnville Dam and Weirs #2, 3 and 4. The re-construction of Weir #2 was completed late in 1993, and the restoration of Weirs #3 and 4 began in January. The photo shows the work under way at Weir #4 in Byng Island Conservation Area. A silt screen is in place downstream of the construction area to catch any silt disturbed during the restoration of the weir. The conclusion of the work at Weirs #3 and 4 was put off until after spring runoff. *(Photo: Dan Crumb)*

The Tree $ale

Pining for Trees - Don't leaf it until the last minute to spruce up your property. The GRCA's poplar annual tree sale takes place on May 13 at the Forestry Barn at 400 Clyde Road in Cambridge. So don't bark up the wrong tree - come on out and pick up some surplus trees from the GRCA nursery at reasonable prices. On a more serious note, the GRCA is going out on a limb this year again for watershed residents and planting approximately 550,000 trees in the Grand River valley. Tree orders are down again this year due to effects of the recession. The Conservation Authority is welcoming tree orders for the spring 1995 planting season.

S.C. Johnson and Son, Ltd. Environmental Scholarship

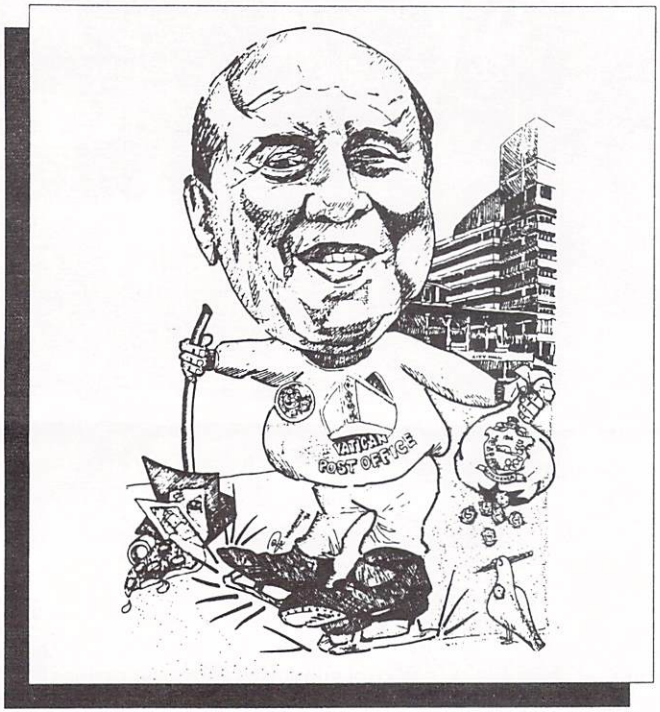
In environmental terms, S.C. Johnson and Son, Ltd. of Brantford is one of Canada's leading corporate citizens. This year, S.C. Johnson extended this leadership by funding the establishment of the S.C. Johnson and Son, Ltd. Environmental Scholarship.

The new scholarship is a $1500.00 annual award administered through the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation and is available to students enrolled in an environmental sciences program at a university in the Grand River watershed. This scholarship joins the Foundation's Marcel Pequegnat and Robert Haworth Scholarships. The deadline to apply for these scholarships is May 31.

Honouring Dom Cardillo

Dom Cardillo Tribute Night

We love him...



. . .and we know you do too!

Join Us! Thursday June 16th, 1994
Bingeman Park, Kitchener

Reception: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Dinner & Program: 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Tickets: $49.95
(includes a tax receipt of $20)

Kitchener's well known Mayor Dom Cardillo is retiring. He served as Alderman for the City of Kitchener from 1963-1982 and as Mayor from 1983 to the present. Dom has also been involved with numerous public service organizations over the years. To honour Mr. Cardillo and his years of service, there will be a Dom Cardillo Tribute Night at Bingemans Conference and Recreation Centre on June 16. Neil Aitchison will attend as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets are $49.95 and proceeds from their sale will go to support two local community initiatives. Charitable receipts will be issued by the Rotary Club for support of the Kitchener Rotary Centre. The Grand Valley Conservation Foundation will also issue receipts for money from ticket sales toward Rails to Trails purchases in the Grand River valley. Tickets are available from the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation in Cambridge at (519) 621-2761.

Order Your Tickets Today and Support Rails To Trails Projects ! ! !

Honouring Lorne Murray

The Grand River Conservation Authority presented an Honour Roll Award to Lorne Murray at its General Meeting on November 24, 1993. Mr. Murray served for many years with the Maitland Valley and Grand River Conservation Authorities. He was the Maitland's Chairman from 1976 to 1979 and a member there from 1967 to the present. At the GRCA he was a member from 1969-1990 and a member of the Executive Committee from 1972-74 and 1978-1990. As a long term member of both Authorities, Lorne was proud that he "worked from one lake to the other," from Lake Huron to Lake Erie. Mr. Murray's Honour Roll Award may be viewed in the lobby of the GRCA's Administration Centre.

The 1994 Budget

The Conservation Authority budget has three areas of income; provincial grants, municipal levies and self generated revenue. This income funds three areas of expenditure; capital, operations and administration. At the Annual Meeting the General Membership set the 1994 budget at $18.8 million, up from $18.36 million in 1993. The modest increase in this year's budget is the result of a number of factors. The Conservation Authority carried 1993 capital funding forward into 1994 on such projects as the Dunnville Dam and Weirs. The positive impact of this carry forward was offset by the GRCA's assumption that capital grants from the Province would be reduced by a further 10% this year.

The municipal levy, which funds capital and administration expenditures, has been held to no increase this year. This levy freeze is possible because surplus revenues generated in 1993 have been carried forward into 1994 and used to fund capital projects. In addition, for the first time income from self generated revenue will fund the area of operations expenditures which has been partially supported by municipal levy in the past. In an era of declining government grants this is an important step forward for the Conservation Authority and its municipal partners.

In summary, the carry forward of 1993 capital funding and interest income has been set against this year's municipal levy freeze and a 10% forecast reduction in Provincial grants to create a $440,000 increase in the budget. What does this mean for the individual watershed resident? To fund conservation work in the Grand River valley, each taxpayer's levy is only $6.07 in 1994. No new projects were adopted by the Conservation Authority at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the GRCA Annual Meeting on February 23 **Chairman Archie MacRobbie** of Puslinch and **Vice-Chairman Peter Krause** of Cambridge were re-elected. **Mr. Geoff Jeffery** of Brantford was elected to the Executive Committee, whose other 11 incumbent members were returned to office. The current Executive consists of:

Lorne Brown - Group 1 (Villages of Dundalk, Grand Valley; Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, East Luther, Melancthon, Proton)

Richard Christy - Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Mabel Dougherty - Group 8 (Townships of Brantford, Burford, Oakland, Onondaga, South Dumfries)

Ted Fairless - Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Geoff Jeffery - City of Brantford

Douglas King - Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk

Barry Lee - Regional Municipality of Halton

Jack Lennox - Group 2 (Villages of Arthur, Drayton: Townships of Arthur, Maryborough, Peel, Wallace, West Luther)

Joe Martens - Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Bill McAdams - City of Guelph.

Conservation Areas Update

Elora Gorge, Laurel Creek and Pinehurst Lake Conservation Areas were all open for cross country skiing last winter. Late in 1993, the Conservation Authority responded to public concerns about its decision to close Laurel Creek for the winter and chose to keep the area open. A good winter and public support resulted in a record year for winter revenue at Laurel Creek. Pinehurst Lake also had a record year for attendance. All Conservation Areas are now preparing to re-open for the summer season on April 23, the opening day of trout season.

CALL A GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AREA TO BOOK YOUR COMPANY OR FAMILY PICNIC

CAMPS FOR KIDS

Day Camps for kids are being offered by the GRCA throughout the summer.

FISHING CAMPS for ages 9 to 12 are being run at the Guelph Lake Nature Centre from July 4 to 6; at the Shade's Mills Conservation Area in Cambridge from July 11 to 13; and at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre near Paris from July 18 to 20. Fishing Camp is held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and costs $100. All of the equipment is supplied. Students find out about fishing rules, ethics, safety, fishing techniques, where to fish and the kinds of fish they'll find. **50% of the time is spent fishing! ** Enrollment numbers are limited for these popular camps so please call (519) 621-2761 to register.

CONSERVATION DAY CAMPS are also being held this summer at GRCA nature centres for students ages 6 to 10. The camps run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Cost per student is $80 per week or $20 per day. Enrollment numbers have been set at a minimum of 14 students to a maximum of 20 per camp to ensure quality instruction. There are many activities planned for each of the camps. Some of these include: nature hikes, water studies and bird and insect identification. Kids have fun and learn more about the environment.

Apps' Mill Nature Centre (near Paris) - For information & registration call (519) 752-0655
July 4 to 8 & August 15 to 19

Guelph Lake Nature Centre (Guelph) - For information & registration call (519) 836-7860
July 25 to 29 & August 8 to 12 & August 15 to 19

Laurel Creek Nature Centre (Waterloo) - For information & registration call (519) 885-1368
August 8 to 12

Tamarack on the Grand

Singing About the Grand Heritage - In 1993 Canada's well known folk singing group premiered a new collection of songs called, *Tamarack on the Grand: The Story of a River* at the Elora Festival. Tamarack performed some of these heritage river songs at the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board reception at The Cambridge Mill restaurant on January 18 after the Board recommended designation of the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River. Sponsored by duMaurier Arts Ltd., in cooperation with the Elora Festival and the Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Tamarack will perform this cycle of songs at festivals and GRCA Conservation Areas in the Grand River valley in 1994.

Tamarack performance dates are:

May 28 - Brantford Riverfest

July 1 - Elora Gorge Conservation Area - 2 to 4 p.m.

July 2 - Brant Conservation Area - 1 to 3 p.m.

July 2, Pinehurst Conservation Area - 7 to 9 p.m.

July 3 - Byng Island Conservation Area - 2 to 4 p.m.

July 8 - Rockwood Conservation Area - 7 to 9 p.m.

July 9 - Laurel Creek Conservation Area - 7 to 9 p.m.

July 16 - Conestogo Conservation Area - 7 to 9 p.m.

July 22 to 24 - Hillside Festival - Guelph Lake Conservation Area